Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1-3 and 33, cancel Claim 3, and add new Claims 60-67. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

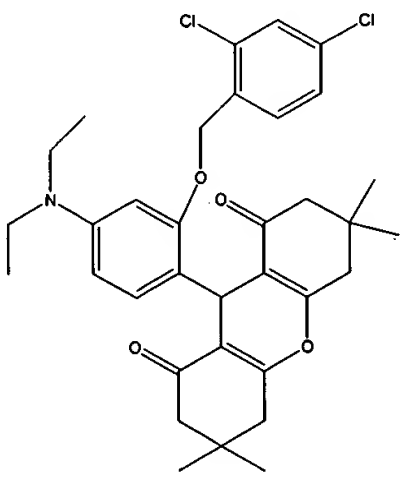
1 (currently amended): A method for identifying a therapeutic agent for use in treating a constitutive androstane receptor (CAR)-mediated disorder or condition, wherein the CAR-mediated disorder or condition is hypercholesterolemia, the method comprising:

identifying a candidate therapeutic agent by screening one or more compounds to determine whether said compounds ~~can modulate~~ comprise an agonist of a CAR-mediated intermolecular interaction;

administering the candidate therapeutic agent to a test mammal; and

determining whether the level of a cholesterol indicator is ~~modulated~~ decreased in said test mammal in comparison to a test mammal in which the candidate therapeutic agent is not administered.

2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said candidate therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of 5ß-pregnan-3,20-dione, 1,4-bis[2-(3,5-dichloropyridyloxy)]benzene (TCPOBOP),



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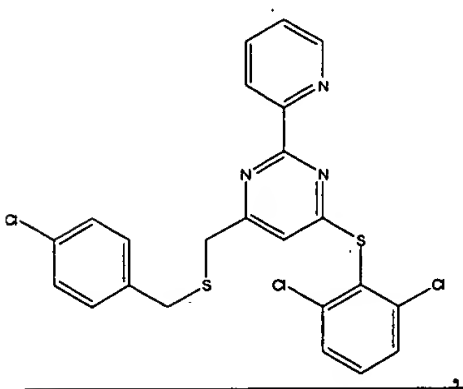
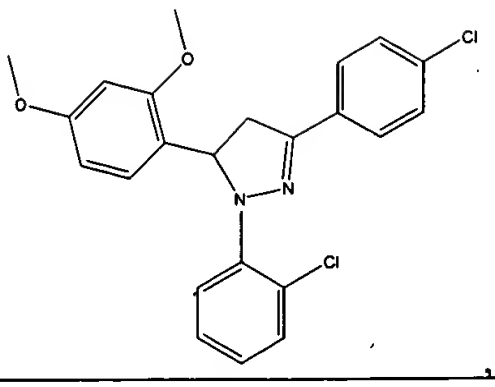
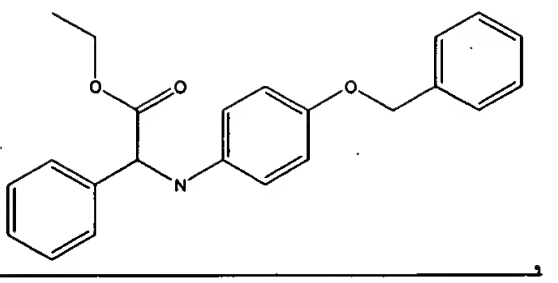

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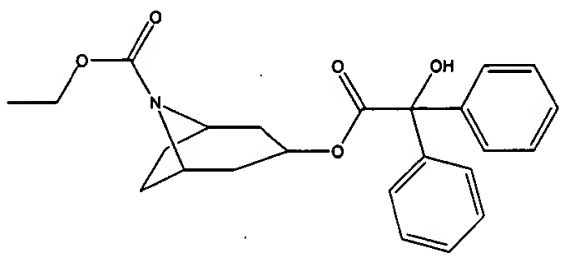

5 _____, and mixtures thereof.

3 (canceled).

4 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the test mammal is a cholesterol-elevated mammal.

5 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein the test mammal has a disruption in both CAR alleles.

6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said cholesterol indicator is the level of serum cholesterol.

7 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said cholesterol indicator is the level of a member selected from the group consisting of HDL cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, and VLDL cholesterol.

8 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said cholesterol indicator is the mRNA level of a gene involved in the regulation of cholesterol levels.

9 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said CAR-mediated intermolecular interaction is CAR-mediated gene expression.

10-32 (canceled)

33 (currently amended): A method for identifying a therapeutic agent for use in treating a constitutive androstane receptor (CAR)-mediated disorder or condition, wherein the CAR-mediated disorder or condition is hypercholesterolemia, the method comprising:

administering a compound to a CAR compromised mammal, wherein said CAR compromised mammal comprises a mutation, disruption or insertion in at least one CAR allele that prevents the production of a functional CAR polypeptide; and

determining whether administration of the compound results in a change in cholesterol level compared to a CAR compromised mammal to which the compound is not administered.

34 (original): The method of claim 33, wherein the method further comprises administering the compound to a CAR non-compromised mammal and comparing the effect on the cholesterol level indicator of administering the compound to that of administering the compound to the CAR compromised mammal.

35 (original): The method of claim 33, wherein said cholesterol level indicator is the level of serum cholesterol.

36 (original): The method of claim 33, wherein said cholesterol level indicator is the level of a member selected from the group consisting of HDL cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, and VLDL cholesterol.

37 (original): The method of claim 33, wherein said cholesterol level indicator is the mRNA level of a gene involved in the regulation of cholesterol levels.

38 (original): The method of claim 33, wherein said CAR compromised mammal is a mammal having a disruption in both CAR alleles.

39 (original): The method of claim 38, wherein said CAR compromised mammal is a mouse.

40 (original): The method of claim 38, wherein said disruption occurs in the coding region for the DNA binding domain of CAR.

41 (original): The method of claim 38, wherein said disruption in a CAR allele comprises an insertion at codons for amino acid positions from about amino acid 21 to about amino acid 86 of CARß.

42-59 (canceled)

60. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein said CAR-mediated intermolecular interaction comprises CAR binding to a ligand for CAR.

61. (new) A method for identifying a therapeutic agent for use in treating a constitutive androstane receptor (CAR)-mediated disorder or condition, wherein the CAR-mediated disorder or condition is hypocholesterolemia, the method comprising:

identifying a candidate therapeutic agent by screening one or more compounds to determine whether said compounds comprise at least one of an antagonist or an inverse agonist of a CAR-mediated intermolecular interaction;

administering the candidate therapeutic agent to a test mammal; and

determining whether the level of a cholesterol indicator is increased in said test mammal in comparison to a test mammal in which the candidate therapeutic agent is not administered.

62. (new) The method of claim 61, wherein said candidate therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of 5α-androst-16-en-3α-ol, 5α-androstane-3α-ol, androstenol-3-acetate, 5α-androstan-3α-ol-acetate, androstenol, androstanol, and mixtures thereof.

63. (new) The method of claim 61, wherein said cholesterol indicator is the level of serum cholesterol.

64. (new) The method of claim 61, wherein said cholesterol indicator is the level of a member selected from the group consisting of HDL cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, and VLDL cholesterol.

65. (new) The method of claim 61, wherein said cholesterol indicator is the mRNA level of a gene involved in the regulation of cholesterol levels.

66. (new) The method of claim 61, wherein said CAR-mediated intermolecular interaction is CAR-mediated gene expression.

67. (new) The method of claim 61, wherein said CAR-mediated intermolecular interaction comprises CAR binding to a ligand for CAR.